CURSE OF THE SPAWN

CURSE OF THE SPAWN

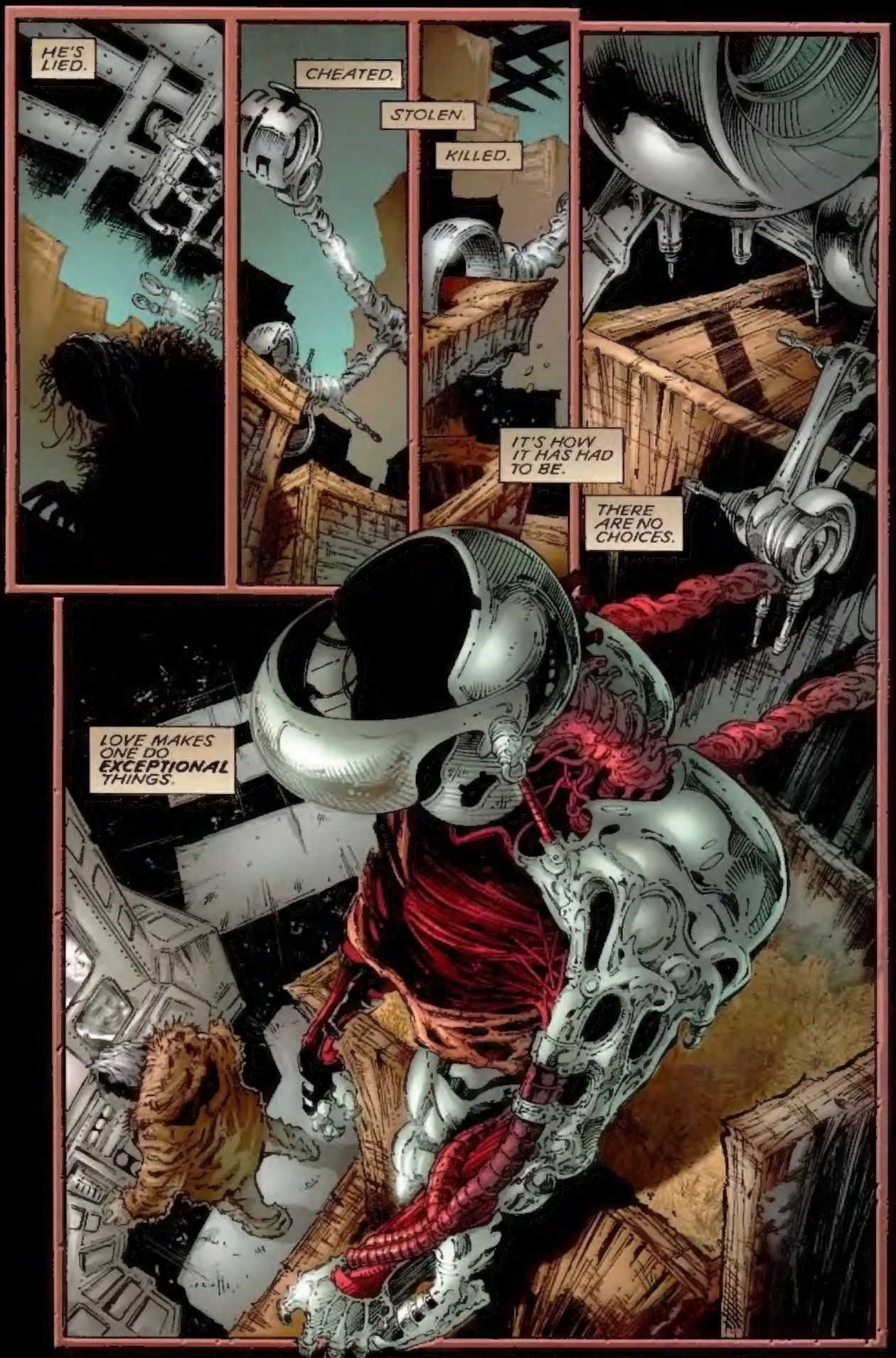
TODD MCFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
www.spawn.com

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #23 August, 1998. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92635. $1.95 US/$2.95 CAN. Spawn, its logo and its symbol areregistered trademarks 1998 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 1998 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane. PRINTED IN CANADA.

NORTHERN GREENLAND--PRESENT DAY.

TIME.
FLESH.
SHADOWS.
THE I.S.-4 D.O.D. LAB AWAITS.
DR. KYDE
eerrrrerrreeeer

LOVE.
TRUTH.
OBSESSION.
MEET Dr. EYLAN HESSMAN.
GENIUS.
MONSTER.


HE'S LIED.
CHEATED.
STOLEN.
KILLED.
IT'S HOW IT HAS HAD TO BE.
THERE ARE NO CHOICES.
LOVE MAKES ONE DO EXCEPTIONAL THINGS.

DAY FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-THREE. THE FINAL BIO-MIMETIC SEGMENTS HAVE ARRIVED. GOD HELP ME, I'M CLOSE NOW.
AND I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF... NO, THIS IS ABOUT BLOOD. AS ALL THINGS ULTIMATELY ARE...
BUT I'M SO TIRED... I MISS THE ORDINARY THINGS... A BLADE OF GRASS... THE SIGHT OF CHILDREN RUNNING FREE... SO INNOCENT...
IF THIS TAPE SURVIVES ME, WILL YOU WHO SEE THIS... UNDERSTAND? ... FORGIVE ME?
I HAVE HELPED PEOPLE, AS A DOCTOR... SURGEON... ALL MY WORK IN LIMB REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT... MY EVENTUAL BREAK-THROUGHS IN ROBOTICS...
BUT NONE OF IT COULD SAVE MY FATHER...

MY FATHER WAS A GOOD MAN... A FAIR-MINDED MAN... AND, WITH MY MOTHER GONE... KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER... HE WAS MY WHOLE WORLD.
BALL GAMES, MUSEUMS, PLAYS... HE TOOK ME EVERY-WHERE... EVEN TO THE HOSPITAL WHERE HE WORKED WITH THE TERMINAL AND THE DEBILITATED...
THEN... HE WAS STRUCK DOWN. A.L.S. TO WATCH HIS BODY BETRAY HIM... HORRIBLE...
AND ME, A STRUGGLING RESIDENT FIGHTING TO SAVE HIM. I LEARNED EVERYTHING I COULD. TRIED TO REBUILD HIS BODY... TRIED TO SAVE HIS LIFE... INVENTED NEW TECHNIQUES, NEW INSTRUMENTS, PSEUDO-NERVE TISSUE, FLEX-STEEL BONE POLYMERS...
BUT THE TECHNOLOGY WASN'T THERE...
I BURIED MY FATHER ON NEW YEARS' DAY...

"FOR YEARS I WANDERED. MY LIFE DESTROYED.
"THE LOSS OF MY FATHER TORE A HOLE IN THE FABRIC OF MY SOUL.
"WHAT DID LIFE MATTER, IF I COULDN'T SAVE THE PERSON WHO MATTERED MOST TO ME...
"I WAITED FOR DEATH ON THE RAGGED EDGE... DRUGS, LIQUOR... SANDS RUNNING DOWN...
"UNTIL THAT DAY IN CAIRO WHEN CHRISTINA FOUND ME DRUNK, FEVERISH, DYING IN A BACK ALLEY BAR...
"... AND TOLD ME THAT I HAD A BROTHER...

"MY FATHER KNEW CHRISTINA IN ITALY A YEAR BEFORE HE MET MY MOTHER... THEIR AFFAIR WAS HEATED... BUT SHORT-LIVED...
"MY FATHER RETURNED TO THE U.S.... AND DEAR CHRISTINA NEVER TOLD HIM ABOUT THE CHILD SHE BORE. NICHOLAS, MY HALF-BROTHER. AND THE ONLY SON OF CHRISTINA ROCCA...
"WITH CHRISTINA'S HELP, I TRACKED DOWN MY HALF-BROTHER.
"AND FOUND A MAN WHO HAD LIVED A HARD LIFE... LEARNED FROM THE STREETS HOW TO FIGHT, HOW TO SURVIVE. HOW TO GO FROM BEING A VICTIM TO BECOMING A KILLER.
"MY BROTHER NICHOLAS WAS A TORPEDO... A HIRED HITMAN FOR A SICILIAN DON NAMED LUCIANO BARTINO.
"THAT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME... NICHOLAS WAS MY BROTHER. WE SHARED THE SAME BLOOD...

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
"BUT I FOUND HIM TOO LATE.
"EVEN AS I CROSSED THE PIAZZA IN NAPLES.. I SAW NICHOLAS WALK INTO AN AMBUSH.
SOMEBODY HELP ME, PLEASE, HELP ME!
"I WATCHED AS MY HALF-BROTHER, THE ONLY FAMILY I HAD LEFT ON THIS EARTH... TUMBLED INTO A POOL OF HIS OWN BLOOD... BODY RAVAGED BY HOLLOW-POINTS...

"THAT WAS WHEN I MADE MY DEAL WITH THE DEVIL...
"... AND TOOK MY FIRST ICY STEPS INTO HELL."
DON BARTINO.. YOUR HITMAN, NICHOLAS ROCCA, IS ON LIFE SUPPORT IN ROME.
I CAN GIVE HIM BACK TO YOU.
WHOLE
WHAT IS MY CARE FOR ONE HITMAN? THEY LIVE, THEY DIE. I GO THROUGH THEM LIKE A SHARK GOES THROUGH TEETH

I AM A RENOWNED ROBOTICIST, DON BARTINO I CAN MAKE NICHOLAS ROCCA THE ULTIMATE HITMAN.
LITERALLY, A KILLING MACHINE.
"ANOTHER MAN WAS THERE THAT DAY. A GANGSTER FROM NEW YORK. TWISTELLI.
" HE WAS SMART. HE KNEW WHAT I COULD DO WITH ROCCA
ALRIGHT. I GIVE YOU THIS MONEY. HE BETTER BE ONE HELLUVA KILLER.
"THAT'S HOW I SAVED MY BROTHER NICHOLAS' LIFE . USING THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WASN'T THERE TO SAVE MY FATHER.
"SO... I HAD A BROTHER ... AND THE WORLD HAD OVERKILL.

"I CHERISH THOSE DAYS WE SPENT TOGETHER
"NICHOLAS BOUGHT A CABIN IN MILAN. THERE, WE TRULY BECAME BROTHERS. AND FRIENDS.
" I TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR FATHER.
"WE PLAYED CHESS TALKED ABOUT CULTURE. N.CHOLAS WAS VERY WELL READ. HE KNEW ART, HISTORY, SHAKESPEARE BUT THERE WAS NO ONE IN HIS LIFE TO SHARE THESE THINGS WITH .. UNTIL ME.
"AT TIMES WE WOULD JUST SIT IN SILENCE WATCHING THE LAKE. THE PLAY OF COLORS ACROSS ITS CALM SURFACE
"NICHOLAS COULD RELAX WITH ME. FORGET ABOUT HIS WORLD OF DEATH AND KILLING.
"AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TOO MANY YEARS, I FELT ALIVE AGAIN CONNECTED AT PEACE
"IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO HAVE FAMILY. .

40 MM A5/EDP DISPENSOR -- AMMO 4A2, AUGMENT

"THE WORLD CAN CHANGE SO QUICKLY.

P.A.H. - 8.865 MM TEFLON-TIPPED DOMINO-TALON TWIN-BARREL. AUGMENT

"WE ARE ALWAYS BUT A HEARTBEAT...

AUTO-ALIGN 20 MM LASER MOUNTS, NEUMO-ENDO-SAW TITANIUM MODIFIER, 845-20 ANTI-PERSONNEL SPIKE-NOVA CHARGES, 857901 TACTICAL-UPGRADE. AUGMENT.

"...FROM *CATASTROPHE.*

" I STILL REMEMBER THAT NIGHT. THE 911 ON MY PAGER FROM ANTONIO TWISTELLI
" THE MESSAGE TO CALL FROM A PAY-PHONE.
YEAH, DOC. IT'S ABOUT OVERT-KILL WE GOT A PROBLEM...
"HE TOLD ME
"AND I JUST STARTED RUNNING.
DOC...?

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

"I SEARCHED FOR DAYS, SCROUNGING FOR EVERY PIECE AND BIT OF BIO-EQUIPMENT...
"...EVERY PART OF MY HALF-BROTHER.
"NICHOLAS...
"I WAS TOLD HE'D BEEN TORN APART BY SOME DARK-SOULED MONSTER LIVING DEEP WITHIN THE MAGGOT-CHOKED FILTH AND RAT-INFESTED BLACKNESS.
"TO LOSE SO MUCH... SO SOON...
"IT WAS AS IF I HAD BEEN TORN ASUNDER TOO...
"BUT NO... I SAVED YOU ONCE, BROTHER. I KNEW I COULD DO IT AGAIN. I KNEW I COULD BRING HIM BACK.

"THE MILITARY HAD ALWAYS BEEN AFTER ME. BLACK OPS R&D. BILLIONS FOR WHATEVER I MIGHT NEED.
"JUST LIKE BARTINO, THEY WANTED A SOLDIER. AN ULTIMATE KILLING MACHINE...
"I WANTED MY BROTHER. MY BLOOD. MY LIFE.
BLACKBAG CYBER SOLDIER
D.O.D. PROJECT
"WHEN THE IS-4 STAFF GREW SUSPICIOUS OF MY AGENDA, I BEGGED WITH THEM... PLEADED FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING.
"BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN... AND I WOULDN'T BE STOPPED...
"THE DAY I BURIED MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SNOW AND ICE, I REALIZED JUST HOW ALIKE NICHOLAS AND I HAD BECOME.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

GRRRR
"NOW
"AFTER SO LONG...
BRRRBBL
"POURING MY HEART...
"MY SOUL...
GURGLE

"MY BROTHER... MY BLOOD...
TK TK TK
"...IS REBORN...
WHSH
THMP!

I WON'T LOSE YOU AGAIN.
NO MORE KILLING FOR HIRE. WORKING FOR MADMEN AND FOOLS...
WE'LL BOTH FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM, THE PEACE WE DESERVE.
THE BLOOD-SHED IS OVER. WE ARE OFFICIALLY RETIRED.
WELCOME BACK, NICHOLAS.

WHUMP!
UUHH!?!
POP!

WAARR!
OVERT-KILL IS DEAD.
MEET OVERT-WAR.
TO BE CONTINUED!

BlahBlahBlah

BlahBlahBlah_70
w/terry fitzgerald
tdfitz@aol.com

So what's up with the photos you ask? Well Ted Adams and I went on a two week tear throughout Asia a few months ago. We started in Hong Kong for a few days to visit our toy company employees there, as well as a couple of licensees. We then moved on to Japan, Osaka and Tokyo more specifically. We met with all of our licensees there, over two dozen at last count.

We took the shinkensan, or bullet train, down to Osaka to meet with the Capcom folk. They are busy working on the Spawn arcade game for the new and top secret Sega arcade board. The game will use several newly created fighting moves and will have one feature that I can not discuss that will be revolutionary for the industry. All I can say is expect to see several Spawns on screen at once. Sh*t are they going to be mad at me. Expect to see the game in arcades late 1999, then on home platforms in 2000.

Anyhow, the Capcom guys decided to take Ted and I down to this little resort town in southern Hokaido. This little town has nothing but private, big business, resorts, for companies like Hitachi, Panasonic, etc. Capcom has there own, were all Capcom employees are allowed to spend a week or so every year there, just hanging out by the pool, eating BBQ, drinking sake and talking the biz.

Well, we didn't do much talking about the biz. Hell no. We spent three days eating this beef that literally costs $100 per pound, yummy!, and drinking more beers than any drunken Irishman on St. Patty's Day. The gentleman, well at least he thinks he is, in the photo by himself is Yoshiki Okamoto, a senior VP at Capcom. This guy is amazing. He is the mastermind behind titles like Marvel vs. Street Fighter, the original Street Fighter games, Mega Man, etc. He is the reason I told other game companies to go hump themselves and went with Capcom. He is the biggest Spawn fan I've ever met.

So Yoshiki took over our stay at the resort. He said eat, we eat. Swim, play ball, whatever, we did. One day he took us to Japan's largest theme park. No, not Tokyo Disneyland. We went to Parque Espana. That's right, a theme park in Japan, based on Don Quixote and the country of Spain. You heard me right, Spain! There were flamenco dancers everywhere, even the parade had a plate of paella that featured dancing lobsters, onions and green peppers. The photo of the lone Yoshiki will show you want a fun loving guy he is. He scared every adult that came within thirty of him. I won't even tell you about his hot tub antics. I love this guy.

The second photo features a very excited Yoshiki and myself in front of the Spanish fountain in the middle of their equivalent of Disney's Main Street. The last photo is the best yet. I'll try to name everyone in the pic. This photo was taken shortly after a traditional photo and I asked everyone to follow my lead, act stupid and shoe their finger up their nose. Everyone around us who saw us were very perturbed to say the least! So, from left to right, back row by himself Mr. Matsumoto from Sony Axel, middle row left to right, Mr. Tanaka, a VP from Capcom, Yumiko Miyano, our licensing agent in Japan, myself, Mr. Okamoto, Rick Privman, a yank who works with Yumiko for us, and Ted Adams. Front row features two women from Capcom.

So what do you notice about this photo? Yup, everyone is two knuckles deep into one nostril, INCLUDING the very soft, demure and very feminine women, except for Ted. An American no less! Oh did we ride him for that one. I think he was worried that he would find something that's been hiding there for the last five years.

Anyhow. So keep your eyes open for our second Spawn animated video from HBO Home Video. This vid, and DVD will feature the second six animated episodes of Spawn that appeared on HBO earlier this year. Just like last time, there will be two different versions, a "PG-13" and a "R" rated tape. Expect the "R" rated to be exactly like the shows that appeared on the air. The "R" rated as well as the DVD will also feature a special Todd McFarlane added documentary. This puppy will hit the streets on August 24th at all video and electronics stores.

If you haven't figured it out yet, Todd and Greg Capullo drew the cover to the new Korn CD that debuted this month. Everyone from the band to management to the label loved it and so do we. The music itself is the best yet from the California band and so far has been generating some big numbers at retail and on radio. Rock on brothers. Thanks again for the opportunity guys.

-Until next month, terry fitzgerald

p.s. Next month I finally get to talk about this wicked music video we have been working on for the past three months! You will be shocked!

Curse Words
P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228
www.spawn.com

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I know you must have quite a heap to flip through and I really appreciate it.

I've been reading and collecting *Spawn* since day one and am also an avid reader of *Curse of the Spawn*. I just completed issue 20 and must admit that it truly left me breathless. I am also still recovering from the Antonio Twistelli story arc that totally blew me away. I must congratulate Mr. Alan McElroy on the superb quality of his writing. The Antonio Twistelli story reminded me of the Godfather. It had a flawless concept that would make an amazing feature film (hint!).

I also noticed that the cover displayed a warning for containing coarse language. Hey, it's fine by me but here is a suggestion. Ever thought of going a little "Vertigo-ish" on the title? It would definitely add a whole new dimension and edge to the concept of *Spawn*. It might even draw in more new readers.

Anyway, I must say that it really takes a lot of guts, on your behalf, to print both the good and bad letters. It's great to know that you acknowledge some of the reader's concerns and feelings.

As I've said before, I've been following *Spawn* for quite some time, but lately I've noticed a breakdown in terms of the story. It doesn't flow as well as it used to. I think introducing too many characters and scenarios has played havoc on the general flow of the book. The recent alley gang war has lasted through five issues or maybe more. I, personally, got a little bit bored of it but forced myself through.

I think an advantage *Curse of the Spawn* has over the main title is that the readers are always introduced to a new story every 3 to 4 issues. It keeps things really interesting with the new characters, settings and story line. This way the title doesn't get too monotonous and it's always kept vibrant. The top quality art is another plus point.

I caught the *Spawn* movie a while back and thought that it really lived to its tagline of being 'The Special-Effects Movie Event of the year,' but at the expense of a decent story line and script. It seemed too disjointed and like the *Spawn* book, it didn't flow well. If you're planning a sequel, don't compromise on the story and script. It really hurts when the movie doesn't do justice to the concept of Spawn. I haven't caught any of the HBO cartoons yet as I don't get them here but maybe I'll pick up the videos.

By the way, are there any new *Spawn* mini-series ideas in the pipeline, maybe some crossovers? Thank you once again for taking the time to hear me out and reading my letter. Until Hell really freezes over, make mine Spawn!

Yours Sincerely,
Nashvin Dara
South Australia

I believe Alan is continuing to grow as a writer in the comic books medium. As an accomplished screenplay writer in Hollywood, each medium has a different set of rules they need to adhere to, of which Alan is starting to get a better and better grasp. This is evident by your enthusiasm over his Antinio Twistelli story. I too, was impressed by the very urban feel of it and thought it had a film quality about it.

While writing such real drama stories, we sometimes do run into the problem of language. I know on the Mafia story, sometimes it seems kind of trite to have these characters act like the people we read about in real life, but not have any of the cussing involved. It's something we struggle against literally with every issue and everybody's tolerance is a little bit different. In this case, I felt that if the language was part of the conversation of characters you see in a lot of Mafia based movies, that it wouldn't be as offensive as somebody like Superman or Spiderman throwing a cuss word out. I feel this is how these characters talk on a 24 hour basis and to try and circumvent it with either a toned down word or not put it in at all would make these people not seem real.

One of the other reasons I like to put in letters that are somewhat more critical, although the majority of the letters are far from critical, they do give me an outlet to try and give my reasons behind what we do on this end of the publishing arena. Although they might not agree with every action we have, I try and tell people there is actually a thought process involved behind the reason. When you give that reason, sometimes they have a tendency to look at it with a different set of eyes and not be as disinterested as they were the first time.

Thanks for writing in with your opinion about the pace of the story. Again, sometimes in my mind the stories aren't really the overriding thought. It's just more of the big idea stuff. For instance, in the last few issues of Spawn, we introduced an unseen, silent dominion of Heaven that exists in the alley. It is actually a key piece to the puzzle that Spawn doesn't wander the Earth on any level without the eyes of God somehow being on him. That was really the concept of it, mixed in with the fact that the people he is trying to support have become split factions and they don't all necessarily agree with this self-imposed leader.

One of the reasons you said you were drawn to the *Curse of the Spawn* is the introduction of the new stories and new characters every three or four issues. Actually, this is something that I've been rolling around in my head, but we've been getting letters that are quite the opposite; they would like us to pick one or two characters and stick with it throughout the run of the book. Historically, there has never been a book that has been a huge success overall that is in a rotating character format. One of the things we're thinking of doing in the future is hand this book over to Sam and Twitch and take it to an urban venue like Spawn. It would necessarily limit the story lines or settings or number of characters and we would just have to tie it into a detective story that would tie all the pieces together.

Sorry you didn't like the *Spawn* movie all that much, but let me

state that from the time Image Comic Books was established in 1992 to the time the *Spawn* movie and HBO series came out is 1997. Although it seems like it's been a long time, *Spawn* is up to issue 75 and if you look at the big picture of comic books, Superman and Batman were created in 1938 and 1939, respectively. I find it hard to believe they were polished in their final form five years later. It's tough for me to look back and say in 1943 that the Superman of that year is the same Superman with the same motivation and the characters running around him as it is in 1998. That's especially true for Batman who has gone through a lot of different forms, including the early sixties Batman show that was very campy compared to some of the Batman movies that have come out. Although still not nearly as serious as I like, the movies are a lot more dark and brooding than what we're used to. Batman and Superman have had their ebbs and flows for the past 50 years and I don't see why *Spawn* can't fall into that same path. So I'm hoping that 25 years from now we can sit back and look at it and see 1997 as the beginning of the evolution. Thanks for your letter and I hope you enjoy Alan's further stories.

Dear Curse Words,

About three years ago, I discovered the *Spawn* comic and ever since, have been a loyal fan. I've not missed a single issue since #50 and have acquired most of the back issues. Like everyone, I first fell in love with the astonishing artwork and soon found myself drawn into the story, as well. Then, in issue #51, I read about an entirely new reason for my monthly trip to the comic book shop. *Curse of the Spawn*.

I quickly became excited as I read about how this entirely new series would chronicle the stories of previous HellSpawns and delve more deeply into the history of the Spawn uniform and its powers. I was also excited about being able to get in on the ground floor of this new Spawn book.

However, as of yet, the series has not lived up to my original expectations. The art has been amazing and the writing has been fairly good, but out of the six stories up to number 19, only two of them have been about a HellSpawn (one of those lasted only two issues). So far, I have been as loyal to *Curse of the Spawn* as I am to the original series, hoping soon you would begin to focus more on the Spawn angle than on such lame, two-bit characters as Antonio Twistelli and Jessica Priest. I don't know how long I can stick around.

I know your response to this will be, "Well, if you don't like it, leave!" But, the fact is I really want to like it. Every month the art blows me away and Alan McElroys's dark, graphic writing is perfect for a Spawn book. I believe that if you would just stick with your original concept, *Curse of the Spawn* would be the truly great comic it has the potential of being.

A loyal fan (to a point)
Nicholas Sanchez
Kansas City, Missouri

The original intent of this *Curse of the Spawn* book was to show some of the prior HellSpawns but at the same time, equally important, to give space to some of the so-called two-bit characters. I guess I have a bit of a philosophical difference. I think one of the things that makes Spawn interesting is, in his own comic book he's a one-of-a-kind character. I've created a system in which the HellSpawns have existed throughout time and will continue to exist in the future. There is a part of me that thinks as I look at the additional versions of the Spawn, that it potentially takes away from the current Spawn named Al Simmons. He is the one I'm most interested in. It was nice to show a couple of versions of it and I'm sure I'll continue to do that, but again I don't want to have at the end of the run of *Curse of the Spawn* 77 different kinds of Spawns throughout time that blur into one big idea. Unfortunately, the success of *Spawn* and some of the ideas have given way to other books that basically do the same thing and show you the exact same character in a different light with different origins and I think that it's becoming something that's not an original anymore. Whenever that happens, I have a tendency to try and get away from it. We're always looking at the book and trying to evolve it into what is best suited to the audience and ourselves.

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

I have recently noticed on the *Curse of the Spawn* comic that further down from the number of the comic at the top left-hand there is warnings that say "Course Language or Graphic Violence." I was wondering whether your comic will be affected. Probably so. Well, anyway the point I was getting at was, who is mostly the cause of this. Is it the "family values associations" or the "Christian moralists."

What do you feel about Marilyn Manson? Tell me your honest truth, not the one the record companies told you to say because he's on your sound track. Did you put him on there because you liked his music or just because of the façade behind his name. Lastly, are you going to make his band into action figures?

Let's see if I got all the background plug ins. There's *The Creech*, Crime Lab, Japanese lettering for the Manga series and I'm not sure but is that the thirteen monkeys symbol?
An avid reader,

Nathan Miller
Milton, Delaware

The warning on the Antonio Twistelli story line was put there, not because anybody forced me to put it there, no family values associations or Christian moralist, but it was actually myself. To some degree, I believe I have an obligation to the retailers to give them a warning as to the content of any book so they don't potentially put a book with (in this case) coarse language in the hands of an eight-year-old. It could be quite a surprise when he or she then takes the book home and surprises his or her parents. I don't know that I would want my seven or eight-year-old child reading something with the content of this book. So instead of just putting it out, I put the warning in there and give the freedom to the various retailers around the country to know their clientele and make sure they make a wise decision in terms of who they are selling it to. Just because we did that with the Mafia story, you'll notice we didn't do it with the follow-up story. In other words it's not like it would be a continuing threat but again I'm not one to shy away from any ideas one way or another as long as the story content is viable. I just want to make sure that when we do cross a certain line that we give everyone fair warning.

As for Marilyn Manson, I actually find the man to be quite intelligent and very well spoken off stage. On stage, I find him also to be very interesting because his music is very evocative. The way he looks and what he represents seems to stir emotions and elicit very strong opinions about him. We can debate what he does is something that I, personally, stand behind. That isn't nearly as important as having somebody say and do something and making sure people pay attention. Some people could say it's a cop-out, that what he does anybody could do. But on the other hand, I could argue that at least he's one of the creative few that go and make sure his statement is said and done in the fashion that he sees fit.

As for all the little things you are seeing in the backgrounds, I'm glad you're picking up on the little nuances and we'll continue to put them in there in the future.

THE X FILES

FIGHT THE FUTURE!

A darkened room, a conspiracy and a pair of agents out to uncover the truth. All these elements are key to the Emmy Award-winning THE X-FILES television series from FOX. The hit TV show expanded onto the big screen last month and also onto the toy shelves courtesy of McFarlane Toys.

Assortment A has Agent Dana Scully and Agent Fox Mulder, both wearing their trademark suits. These action figures are great likenesses, capturing the images of Gillian Anderson and David Duchovney at their finest. Articulated at the neck, shoulders, elbow, waist, and wrists, the detail is amazing. You can see Mulder's watch or notice the colored LEDs on Scully's cellular phone. Mulder carries a flashlight and both figures even come with their own individual FBI badge.

Each agent is packed with ANOTHER figure; either a Human Host and a Cryopod Chamber or a Victim and a Gurney. The pods can be linked together to recreate the ominous scenes from the movie. The gurney has working handles and can be raised and lowered like a real hospital bed. Both the Human Host and Victim have so much internal intricate detail on them, you have to see them to believe it.

Assortment B has Agent Mulder and Agent Scully in Arctic Wear. These figures are completely different sculpts from the first assortment and feature even more articulation. Again, they come with one of two accessory figures...Docile Alien, which has revolutionary head, shoulder, and arm articulation for seamless movement, or Human Host with Cryopod Chamber. This assortment also includes The Flukeman which comes packaged with a Cryolitter.

The final figure in the assortment is the Primitive Man. This finely sculpted neanderthal is packed with an Attack Alien. Different from his docile counterpart, this Alien has fearsome claws and exposed teeth.

The figures are still shipping to all major toy, music and comic retailers. In addition to many department stores. Check with your local shop to find out when they expect some more in.

ONTO THE E-MAN: Keith Briggs from earthlink.net just read that we're going to produce a Marv action figure from Sin City and a Dawn action figure from Sirius. When will they be available? These are the first two figures in a new McFarlane line, which will be available only in comic shops. On a regular basis starting late this Fall, Todd will be making figures designed to bring more people into the comic stores. Like Frank Miller's Sin City, the Marv figure will be done in shades of black, white, and red. He even comes with a removable knife in his back! See your local comic store for ordering and shipping details. For a store near you, you can use the Ultimate Diamond Comic Shop Locater Service: 1-888-COMIC-BOOK (1-888-266-4226).

Steven Gleason of Somerset KY asked about whereabouts of the Total Chaos 2 repaints. The simple answer is that there isn't any. We usually do repaints of a series if there is still a demand for the figures but stores have stopped ordering them. That's when we approach the buyers for the chain stores with a "new" assortment – redecorated or repainted figures that already have a proven track record. But this year we've already been selling so many new assortments (KISS, The X-Files, Dark Ages, Manga II, etc.) that we haven't had any space to SELL any repaints. We don't want to compete with ourselves on the rack, that's the reason we stagger the assortments in the first place! There may be news on some store specials involving a certain member of TC2, but we'll have more info on that at a later date.

Anita Buckowing of waycom.com sent us a message about the Cyber Tooth figure from Series 10. She mentioned how it seemed the plastic used was a bit softer than normal, which prevents him from staying in an upright position. You're right, Anita, we had some problem with the factory on that series. In order to keep all of the intricate detail carved into the figure and still get it out of the mold, they switched to a softer plastic on us. We were informed of the problem after the figures had already started appearing in the states. It was NOT intentional, and we have taken great measures to ensure that this type of switch will not happen again.

Mike DeLeRee and Rick Torres both asked about buying shares of Todd McFarlane Productions. Sorry guys, you can't do that since there ARE no stocks to buy. Todd doesn't want to be accountable to anyone but himself. If something fails, Todd wants to be the one to suffer, not stockholders. He's taking chances and doing things that he couldn't do if he was worried about how others might react. Can you imagine going in front of a Board of Directors and outlining our new Movie Maniacs line? Or explaining how we feel that there's a deep need out there for a toy based on a black and white comic, even if we don't expect it to sell millions? It's just better for us all that Todd has complete control and doesn't have to report to anyone.

Jesse Vigil from aol.com asked about what other bands we might be making after the KISS figures. We're still talking to a few groups and agents right now, so we can't give a lot of details. We did announce on the OZZfest tour that we'll be eventually coming out with an Ozzy Osbourne figure. And don't forget that Todd provided the artwork for the new Korn album. For now, suffice it to say we're working closely with some major talent in the music industry. You may be able to glean more information by reading the BlahBlahBlah column in each issue of Spawn/Curse of the Spawn.

The winner of this month's EndCap Green Cosmic Angels is Anita Buckowing. If you have a comment, complaint, question, artwork, or photo involving McFarlane Toys, simply contact us at the addresses shown. Each month we award a limited edition Green Cosmic Angels to one lucky reader.

THE X-FILES TM & © 1998 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

endcap 75

THE TRUTH (AND TOYS) ARE OUT THERE

McFarlane Toys EndCap P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228 McFToyClub@aol.com

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

Creative Profile

"Dark" Ed Frank

Last month we profiled artist Chance Wolf. You'll be happy to know that since Chance's profile saw print he has been signed by the Jerry Springer Show for their special – "Why Jokers Make Crummy Lovers." This month I had to travel back into the belly of the beast – Our New Jersey Toy Design office, the place where severed heads are just a part of the decor. "Dark" Ed Frank was waiting for me there. Ed got his nickname due to his almost annoying sunny personality that he loves to inflict on his fellow co-workers. Mary Hart wishes she could be a perky as Ed.

Let the laughter begin...

Could you give us your full name so others looking to name their children won't make the same mistake?
Edward A. Frank, I

How about your birth date, the date that will live in infamy?
11/13/57.

What is your current base of operations when you're not running from the law and do you have a family?
Northern New Jersey. Wife, Carol (30), two daughters ages 4 (or 5) and nine and a son who is three-and-a-half-years-old (I do not know what that translates into on his mystical calendar of Destruction).

Give us the details on your occupation for the Todd McFarlane Empire.
Along with Tony Billotta as co-President of McFarlane Design, we are responsible for product development and production. This includes designing figures (this is usually a collaborative effort with Todd), supervising the sculpting and occasionally doing some myself when the need arises, supervising creation of the paint masters, reviewing tooling patters with the mold makers and reviewing ceramics, test shots, etc. In general we supervise all phases of production and coordinate with our Hong Kong office on the schedules and the quality control.

Now, I know that you work pretty close with Todd on a day-to-day basis. Let our readers know what it's like working with ol' Todd.
As you know, Todd is an inspirational leader so working with him day-to-day is a spiritually uplifting experience. I can honestly say that having Todd as top dog in this outfit is a lot easier and more rewarding than having to deal with a corporate-type puttroon which has been the norm in my experience. We've had some bad days (the first Overtkill and Gore comic quickly to mind), but those days are rare. Most days are spent reviewing the development of each figure and discussing how we can top them with our next line. It is always challenging and at times exciting.

I know it's hard for a man like yourself with an almost cheerleader-like personality to think this way, but have you ever had the urge to take someone's kneecaps out with a ball bat?
Only when I go to the D.M.V or if I catch some of the Lifetime channel on TV.

What letter does your favorite cuss word begin and end with?
K____r.

What kind of music do you listen to when you aren't twisting the heads off of small animals?
David Rig Live at Golden Times, William Shatner's Greatest Hits, Mike Ditka's For Lover's Only.

What was you favorite toy and comic book growing up?
My favorite toys were plastic soldiers and rubber bands, Aurora model kits and slot cars (HO scale). My favorite comic books were Fantastic Four, Spiderman, Dr. Strange, Nick Fury and Sargent Rock.

What McFarlane Toys Action figure do you think is the coolest?
Ash Tray Man. Fox wouldn't let us ship this one but it was cool.

If you could force (and you would have to) any actress or celebrity to be your cheap and trashy girlfriend who would it be?
My wife might see this and I've been around long enough to know you never put anything in writing.

What was the last book you read besides Dick and Jane?
Dirty Jokes and Beer by Drew Carey

What was the last good movie you saw?
Spawn.

If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?
Buy beer and hire Geraldo as my butler.

What is your favorite Sport team?
The New Jersey Cardinals, Class A affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals.

What annoying celebrity would you like to smack with a 2 iron?
Rosie O'Donald.

What do you do in your spare time when not chained to Todd's assembly line?
Play with my kids and pretend to be doing stuff around the house that other husbands do like fix things, mow the lawn, etc.

If you could be really good looking who would you look like?
Beau Smith.

What is the worst thing you ever did to your brother "Happy" Andy when you were kids? (Andy was our first profile-Spawn #73)
I was the perfect big brother. Really.

Taking the chance that you're not a commie or a Canadian, who was your favorite President?
Calvin Coolidge. Really. He was famous for doing nothing and in my mind the perfect politician.

Lastly, give us some true words or advice of "Dark" Ed wisdom.
Never hire anyone with "Born to Lose" tattooed on their forehead.

Thank goodness that monkey is off my back. That'll wrap it up for this month. I'd say be with us again next month, but we all know that Todd's idea of thirty days is waaay different than the rest of us. I think it's that funny Canadian calendar he uses...

–Beau Smith,
Director of Dirty Laundry

HE'S BIG, HE'S BAD
HE'S BACK...

AND WITH GREAT OFFERS TOO GOOD TO PASS UP!

Uncut Collector's Edition
(for mature audiences) features multi-image
lenticular packaging and an exclusive
interview with Spawn creator
Todd McFarlane
Run Time: 147 minutes

Every SPAWN 2 video includes a free mail-in poster offer, plus these unbeatable offers!

Mail-in offer for a free *Exclusive Limited Edition* action figure from McFarlane Toys with proof of purchase. Only available through this offer *(while supplies last)*.

Save $5.00 instantly on Vans footwear at any Journey's store

Free Wizard 1/2 comic with special subscription offer.

WIZARD THE COMICS MAGAZINE

In-pack Spawn 2 sweepstakes entry sponsored by N2inline.com, the in-line skaters' website.

AVAILABLE IN VIDEO STORES EVERYWHERE AUGUST 25TH.

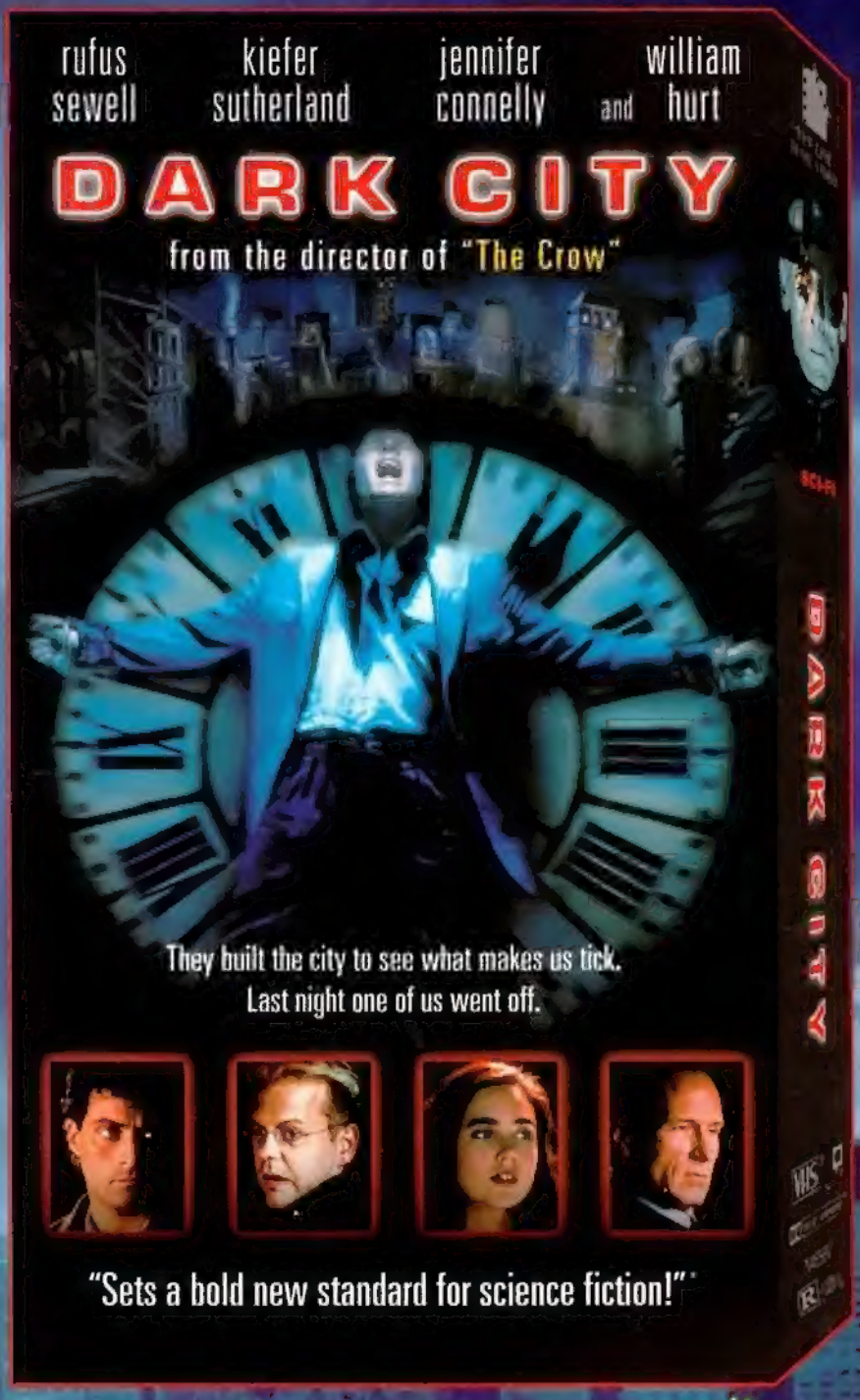
HBO Animation
Todd McFarlane

© 1998 Home Box Office, A Division of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P. All Rights Reserved.

HBO HOME VIDEO

DARK AGES
SPAWN
AUGUST 1998
TOYS
IT'S AN ATTITUDE.

A DAZZLING SCI-FI MIND-BENDER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *THE CROW.*


rufus sewell
kiefer sutherland
jennifer connelly
and
william hurt
DARK CITY
from the director of "The Crow"
They built the city to see what makes us tick.
Last night one of us went off.
"Sets a bold new standard for science fiction!"
DARK CITY

Rent it now at video stores everywhere!
Also available on DVD VIDEO

NEW LINE CINEMA presents a MYSTERY CLOCK production an ALEX PROYAS film RUFUS SEWELL KIEFER SUTHERLAND "DARK CITY" JENNIFER CONNELLY RICHARD O'BRIEN JOHN BOSCARDIN and WILLIAM HURT VALERIE McCAFFREY, C.S.A. SHAUNA WOLFSON, VANESSA PEREIRA TREVOR JONES LIZ HEDDON DOV HOENIG, C.C.E. GEORGE LIDDLE PATRICK TATOPOULOS DARIUSZ WOLSKI, A.S.C. BARBARA GIBBS MICHAEL DE LUCA BRIAN WITTEN ANDREW MASON and ALEX PROYAS ALEX PROYAS
ALEX PROYAS and LEM DOBBS and DAVID S. GOYER ALEX PROYAS

FRANK FRAZETTA FANTASY ILLUSTRATED™

Featuring New and Continued Stories By

RICHARD CORBEN
TOM GRINDBERG
HILDEBRANDT BROS.
ALEX HORLEY
JOE JUSKO
ELIO LEONE
CHARLES VESS

Issue #3

With An Original Story By

NEIL GAIMAN

Illustrated By

TONY DANIEL

And

BATT

BEWARE!

ON SALE IN AUGUST

Frank Frazetta Fantasy Illustrated is ™ & © 1998 Quantum Cat Entertainment, Inc.

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

FREDDY'S NIGHTMARES A NEW NIGHTMARE New Line Productions, Inc. All rights reserved.

DarthScanner

DMT